

On the Distribution of *Phenacoccus yerushalmi* Ben-Dov (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Pseudococcidae) in the Mediterranean Basin

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Of the approximately 40 mealybug species recorded throughout the world from various trees of the Pinaceae, ten are known to develop on various species of this family in the Mediterranean basin (2). *Phenacoccus yerushalmi* Ben-Dov, one of the Mediterranean species, was first described from Jerusalem, Israel, taken from the Aleppo pine, *Pinus halepensis* (1). Later it was recorded from Sicily (3). Since then, we have identified this mealybug from additional collections listed below.

Type material. ISRAEL: Holotype and paratypes: Jerusalem, *Pinus halepensis*, 2.v.1984, (Ben-Dov), (ICVI, MNHN).^a

Further material. ISRAEL: Jerusalem, *Pinus halepensis*, vi.1983; 8.iv.1984, (Ben-Dov), (ICVI); Eshta'ol, *Pinus halepensis*, 4.ix.1989, (O. Shoshan), (ICVI); Eshta'ol, *Pinus halepensis*, 19.ix.1989, (Ben-Dov), (ICVI);

Ben Shemen, *Pinus halepensis*, 20.viii.1999, (Ben-Dov), (ICVI). ITALY: Sicily, Messina, *Pinus pinaster*, 19.ix.1991, (A. Russo), (ICVI). FRANCE: Corsica, Ajaccio, Campo dell'Oro, *Pinus* sp., 29.v.1990 (Jon Martin) (BMNH). SPAIN: Zaragoza, Retuerta de Pina, *Pinus halepensis*, 22.v.1992, (Blasco-Zumeta) (MNHN). TUNISIA: Djebel Douleb (Kasserine), *Pinus halepensis*, 23.ix.1976, (Balachowsky & Matile-Ferrero) (MNHN).

From the data presented here, we conclude that this mealybug is widely distributed in the Mediterranean basin from east to west, very likely restricted to trees of the genus *Pinus*. The mealybug appears to be cryptic in its behavior, developing on the trunk of the pine, completely concealed by the dry cork layer. This may be the reason that it has been recorded only sporadically and infrequently.

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MNHN, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France.

BMNH, British Museum of Natural History, London, UK.

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